



REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this case. Claims 1-8 have been rejected.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 – 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), as being anticipated by non-patent prior art having a date of December 11, 2000. The attached Affidavit of Katherine A. Hornung under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 shows conception and reduction to practice of the present invention prior to December 11, 2000. The date of the cited non-patent prior art is not before the invention by the Applicant of the invention claimed in the present application, thus this publication is not an effective reference against the present application and this rejection should be withdrawn.

All claims now in the application are deemed patentably distinguishable over the art applied and noted, but not relied upon. Accordingly, allowance of the application is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly A. Chasteen", followed by a large, stylized flourish.

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September 10, 2007

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